



**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Backs State's High-Speed Train System**

LOS ANGELES, CA — Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced his support for California's statewide high-speed train network today, saying "The City of Los Angeles supports high-speed rail that connects the communities of Southern California to the region's airports."

Mayor Villaraigosa made his announcement during a meeting with Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director of the California High Speed Rail Authority.

"With California's growing population and related traffic congestion, it's very clear that we need alternative means of transportation to serve our future needs. The time has come for high-speed rail in California and visionaries like Mayor Villaraigosa are the leaders that are helping to make it happen," said Morshed.

The statewide train system has attracted the support of many other civic leaders in California, including San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, and Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle.

The proposed California High Speed Rail Project stretches from San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento in the north -- with service to the Central Valley -- to Los Angeles and San Diego in the south. With bullet trains operating at speeds up to 220 mph, the express travel time from downtown San Francisco to Los Angeles in just under 2 1/2 hours. Intercity travelers (trips between metropolitan regions) along with longer-distance commuters would enjoy the benefits of a system designed to connect with existing rail, air and highway systems

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